

SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

ITEM # 02-8-1: Public Meeting to Provide the Board with the Status on the Fresno Asthmatic Children's Environment Study (FACES)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item

DISCUSSION: The Air Resources Board is implementing a Vulnerable Populations Research Program (Program) whose overall goal is to identify susceptible populations and the degree to which their health is affected by air pollution. The first research study funded under the Program is the Fresno Asthmatic Children's Environment Study (FACES). The FACES study is focused on the determination of the effects of exposure to particulate matter air pollution, in combination with other ambient air pollutants and bioaerosols, on the health of asthmatics living in the Fresno and Clovis areas of the San Joaquin Valley. The study will investigate both acute and chronic health effects.

Dr. Ira Tager, University of California, Berkeley and principal investigator of the study, will present a status report of work conducted under Phase I of the study. Phase I of this study has been completed and resulted in the establishment of the core research team and exposure assessment and health assessment elements necessary for successful completion of this valuable study.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS: The detailed descriptive data collected as part of the health assessment will allow FACES to identify environmental and biological characteristics that make some children more susceptible to the health effects of air pollution. This region of California is notable for a high prevalence of asthma among an ethnically diverse population and for high levels of ambient air pollution. The results of this study should prove invaluable to the Air Resources Board's efforts to protect the health of the citizens of California.

